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**Date: August 25, 2003**

***Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ  
7 am EDT Monday August 25, 2003***

Winds for spraying, southwest 10 to 15 mph today, light and variable tonight, west 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

***Relative humidity in percent, 40 to 50 today, 90 to near 100 tonight, 45 to 55 Tuesday.***

***Dew points, low 60s today, mid 60s tonight, near 70 Tuesday.***

***Drying conditions, good today, fair to good Tuesday.***

***Frost freeze or dew, moderate dew tonight and again Tuesday night.***

*Percent of possible sunshine, 60 today, 90 Tuesday.*

*There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.*

*Hay cutting will see good drying conditions today and fairly good conditions for the next several days with increasing humidity levels but little threat of rain.*

*Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity is below 50 percent over the entire southern part of the state and is only in the 50s in most of the north. The need for irrigation is now widespread in the south and increasing in the north with little widespread rainfall expected for most of the week.*

***Weather conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today and Tuesday based on experimental evidence.***

***The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 1, 2003 through September 7, 2003 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total near normal.***

Temperatures averaged much above normal. Extremes were 93 degrees at several locations on August 23,2003, and 48 degrees at Charlotteburg on August 24, 2003.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.07 inches north, 0.06 inches central, and 0.13 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.58 inches at South Harrison on the August 22, 2003 through August 23, 2003.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 68 percent north, 55 percent central, and 44 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 72 degrees north, 74 degrees central, and 75 degrees south.

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/		
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week								
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*			
- Inches -				- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -				
NORTH												
Belvidere Bridge	.00	35.03	11.56	90	51	73	4	2255	172	66		
Canoe Brook	.08	32.29	7.68	93	52	74	5	2336	241	60		
Charlotteburg	.25	34.12	9.27	89	48	69	3	1833	174	64		
Flemington	.09	31.29	7.57	89	50	72	2	2200	51	58		
Long Valley	.00	29.36	3.73	86	55	70	3	1738	-119	57		
Newton	.01	30.95	8.01	89	49	71	4	2043	141	62		
CENTRAL												
Freehold	.15	25.99	2.87	93	51	74	3	2375	87	67		
Long Branch	.00	28.14	4.76	92	55	75	4	2194	-16	27		
New Brunswick	.02	29.54	6.23	92	53	74	2	2338	-43	64		
Pemberton	DATA NOT AVAILABLE											
Toms River	.14	27.25	3.33	93	51	73	2	2349	157	51		
Trenton	.00	23.98	1.83	92	60	75	3	2311	-175	30		
SOUTH												
A.C. Marina	DATA NOT AVAILABLE											
Cape May C.H.	.12	22.48	1.83	90	54	73	0	2248	80	22		
Downstown	.15	24.68	2.83	91	54	74	2	2400	-61	53		
Glassboro	.00	25.63	2.82	92	61	76	4	2542	73	32		
Hammonton	.00	21.89	-.93	93	54	75	3	2509	36	38		
Pomona	.06	21.95	.91	93	51	75	4	2363	57	31		
Seabrook	.44	27.53	6.61	92	56	74	2	2590	85	47		
South Harrison	.58	23.32	.74	92	57	75	NA	2520	NA	NA		

\*Departure from normal.

1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.

2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 6.7. Temperatures were above normal across most of the state for the week. Top soil moisture was rated 13% short and 87% adequate. Activities during the week were planting fall vegetables, irrigating vegetable fields, harvesting fruit and summer vegetables, top dressing of pastures, and spraying pesticides and herbicides. Leafhopper counts rose in some alfalfa fields. Vegetables were rated in fair to good condition as harvest activities continued. Tomatoes were rated in fair condition across most of the state, but weather related damage reported. Damage including cracks, scaring, early blight, and blossom problems. Heat necrosis symptoms was reported in some potato fields. Tuber discoloration was reported in some Atlantic variety potatoes. Apple and peach harvest continued in the north with the crop condition rated mostly good. Livestock producers continued to rotate pasture grazing and apply top dress sprays in preparation for fall grazing. Less supplemental livestock feeding required due to more available pasture forage supplies.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE				RANGE AND PASTURE			
	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR	VERY POOR POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
	0%	0%	47%		0%	0%	30%
	13%	0%	47%		10%	30%	58%
	87%	62%	6%		22%	10%	12%
	0%	38%	0%		68%	60%	0%
					0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 25, 2003

Acorn Squash - Good quantity and quality available.

Beets - Good quantity and quality available.

Blueberries - Elliott variety berries are finishing up.

Butternut Squash - Fair to good quantity of good quality available.

Cabbage - Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in fair to good quantity and quality. Volume and quality will pick up with the cooler fall weather.

Cantaloupes - Excellent quality and good quantity available in the marketplace.

Collards - Fair quality and quantity with the warm and humid climate. Volume and quality will pick up with the cooler fall weather.

Cucumbers - Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume will pick up again in the fall.

Eggplant - Good quantity and quality available.

Greens - Fair to good quality and quantity of Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the warm and humid climate.

Herbs - Fair quantity and quality for Cilantro. Good volume and quality for Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula, Basil, Mustard, and Mint all have excellent quality with good quantity as they like the hot weather and thrive in this kind of heat.

Italian Eggplant - Good quantities and quality available. Whites also available in good volume.

Leeks - Good quantity and quality available.

Nectarines - The Sunglo variety is winding down this week. Expect a large volume of the beautiful Fantasia variety to start being harvested this week with volume available by the end of the week. Will be available through mid-September.

Peaches - Growers are seeing excellent quality, color, flavor and size. This will continue through September and into early October. John Boy varieties have finished up. Bounty variety peaches are just past their peak and will be winding down this week. Cresthaven variety peaches are ready and will go into early September. Look for good volume of late season Jersey Queen, Encore, and Laurol varieties in September as much of our crop is still to be picked.

White peaches are available in good quantities with the White Lady variety finishing up. The Lady Nancy and Sugar Giant varieties start to

become available in volume later this week. Snow Giant will be our late season variety starting early next month. The new white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. Let's continue to eat peaches through September.

Peppers - Good quality and large quantity available.

Pickles - Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume will pick up again in the fall.

Sugar Babies - Excellent quality and good quantity available in the marketplace.

Sweet Corn - The other side of the peak of the season for corn. Good quantity and quality of corn available until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes - Volume is still increasing each week as recent cloudy weather has slowed their ripening a bit. It's been a tough season for tomatoes as constant rain and humidity has caused problems with fruit set and some disease causing conditions. The season will probably not get much better than it already is and volume is expected to be off from last year.

Turnips - Good volume and quantity available.

White Potatoes - Good quantity and quality of slightly smaller potatoes through mid-October.

Yellow Squash - Good quality and fair to good quantity available though size may suffer a bit in the heat. Will pick up a bit again when temperatures cool in the fall.

Zucchini - Good quality and fair to good quantity available though size may suffer a bit in the heat. Will pick up a bit again when temperatures cool in the fall.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cauliflower - Look for harvest to begin in two to three weeks.

Escarole & Endive - Though a few growers will start picking some minor quantities within two weeks, expect to wait a month for volume.

Lettuces - Look for harvests of Romaine to begin around mid-September with Boston following closely.

Sweet Potatoes - Should begin to become available in volume by mid-September.

NEW JERSEY  
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